the Link

Concordia's Independent Newspaper
Friday October 28, 1994 — Volume 15, Number 13
Concordia University — Montreal, Quebec

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AGENDA

The Agenda is a free service to publicize events of interest to the Concordia community. Priority is given to non-profit and student groups. Drop off your info at our office, room H-649 in the Hall building, or mail it, to *the Link*–Agenda. Deadlines are 4pm, Friday for Tuesday issues, and 4 pm Wednesday for Friday issues.

Friday, October 28

Feminist Perspectives on Genital Mutilation, a discussion focusing on this complicated issue with special attention to western media and feminist reponses, and issues of cultural acceptance. 1 pm, P-03. Info: 848-7431.

Umoja African Students Union presents an evening of films about South Africa past and present. 5–8 pm, H-110.

Monday, October 31

Concordia Animal Rights Association general meeting. 8 pm, H-615. Info: Maureen, 939-5854.

Tuesday, November 1

Women's Art Collective is holding its first meeting. The collective hopes to provide a forum for women to share art that celebrates women. 8 pm. Info: Erin, 522-9305.

Wednesday, November 2

"Women Without Men, 'Communitas' and Survival in Concentration Camps," a presentation by Krisha Starker. 12 noon, LB-677.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. 5:30 pm, 2090 Mackay, Rm 105.

Nice Jewish Girls: Come to celibrate our first festive gathering for Jewish lesbians, and don't forget to bring plenty of food! 6:30 pm, P-03. (Women's Centre, 2020 Mackay)

GENERAL

"Children in the Holocaust: A Legacy," a travelling exhibit of artifacts and photographs presented by the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre. Mon to Fri, 10 am to 5 pm, 1980 Sherbrooke Ouest.

Caribbean Students Union is looking for new members. All welcome. Info: H-508-1; 848-3527.

Loss & Grieving Support Group will begin November 7, a group for anyone trying to cope with the loss of a loved one. Info: Counselling & Development, 848-3545.

Questioning your sexual orientation? Coming Out support group, confidential and friendly atmosphere. Men's Group: Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, 2090 Mackay, Room 02. Women's Group: TBA. For information or individual support call the Peer Helper Centre, 848-2859.

Concordia Irish Society meets every Tuesday at 8 pm, P-103. Info: 848-7411.

Concordia Queer Collective holds weekly meetings on Fridays at 5:30 pm in P-102. Information: 848-7414.

Concordia Outdoors Club, activities planned include hiking and indoor rock climbing. Office hours Tuesdays 11 am to 1 pm, CH-220. Info: 848-7482.

Latin American Students Organization invites all students interested in joining to visit their offices. 2010 Mackay, Rm. 02. Info: 848-3532.

Low-income Students Network will explore strategies and resources for low-income students. Info: 848-2859.

Aid for Rwandan Refugees is still being collected by the YWCA. Money and first aid supplies (blankets, sterilized gauze, bandages, hand soap etc.) are desperately needed to assist refugee women and their families. Info: 866-9941, ext. 293.

Want to talk? We can help you with your personal, educational and vocational concerns.Confidentiality is ensured. Info: Counselling and Development: 848-3545, 3555.

Birth Control Workshops to explore options for men and women. Mondays at 12 noon, 2155 Guy, Rm. 407; Wednesdays at 12 noon, 6935 Sherbrooke W, Room 101. To register, call Health Services, 848-3565/3575.

Volunteers needed to provide recreation activities and tutoring for Inner City Youth Project. Serious applicants only. Info: 848-7945.

International Socialists Students' Association meets every Wednesday at 7:30 pm, in H-771. Join our weekly political discussions. Info: 521-1983.

Head and Hands, a non-profit community health and social service centre, needs volunteers to tutor highschool students in French, English, Math etc. Info: Bruce, 481-0277, 481-3643.

Volunteers needed to help provide services for disabled students. Info: 848-3525 (voice and TDD).

Free tutoring available to students who fail the University Writing test. Info: 848-2320.

Sign up now for workshops on communication skills, career & life planning, building relationships, study skills, loss and grieving support groups etc. For information, call Counselling & Development, 848-3545/3555.

Czesc!!! Polish students' association is looking for new members. Info: Joanna, 486-5179.

Ham Radio Meetings every Tuesday. Personal two-way radio, television, UHF/VHF, satellite and computer communications by ham radio. All Welcome. 7 to 9 pm, H-644-1. Info: 848-7474.

Sign-language courses at the Montreal Deaf Community Centre. Placement tests are required. 65 de Castelnau. Info: TTY: 279-8535.

Peer Helpers is a free, confidential listening service of students helping students. 2090 Mackay St. Info: 848-2859.

Compeer Montreal, a non-profit community service which provides friendship and support services to people with mental health problems, is recruiting volunteers 18 years or older to provide re-integration services to persons with mental illnesses. Info: 489-1007.

Meditation: A Tool For Self-Knowledge. These sessions, sponsored by Campus Ministry, will draw upon various traditions and each will include a "quiet sitting." Wednesdays 12 - 1 pm, Thursdays 4:15 - 5:15 pm, Annex Z. Info: Daryl Ross, 848-3585.

Tel-Aide needs volunteers to staff its telephone crisis line for people in distress. The line operates 24 hours a day, lending a sympathetic ear to Montrealers who are lonely, abused, out of work, emotionally scarred or suicidal. Info: 935-1105.

Prison Visit Program: An eight-week program each semester, in which students visit inmates at Archambault Prison. Volunteers must meet with a chaplain ahead of time. Info: Peter Coté, 848-3586.

Brasilian students interested in forming a student association, call Edna, Prado: 845-9322 or Adriana: 735-0133

Concordia Writers' Group meets every Thursday, 3:30, HB-301. Info: Bill, 684-3502.

Pakistani Students Association needs volunteers to help out with events. Info: Adil, 287-0774.

The NDG Anti-Poverty Group needs computer donations (286 mg. or better) and donations of office equipment & supplies as well as knick knacks, clothing, dishes, books etc. for our upcoming fund-raising flea market. Info: 489-3548.

WOMEN

HIV/AIDS Education/Prevention Workshops for Women. These 2-day workshops focus on HIV/AIDS, STDs, Sexuality & Self-esteem. Emphasis is placed on ways to empower women and promote positive behaviour changes. Every Saturday & Sunday from 10 am to 3 pm until the end of November. To register call Rita, 989-7997.

24 Hour Hotline & Crisis Line, Montreal Sexual Assault Centre, 934-4504.

Self-Help Groups meet weekly dealing with incest, destructive personal relationships, sexual identity etc. Info: 866-9941, ext. 293.

TAMS–Support for Teenage mothers: food bank, daycare, group activities and weekly meetings. Info: 866-9941, ext. 314.

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre needs volunteers for its 24 hour telephone crisis line. Concerned, bilingual women should call 934-4504, 934-9354.

Centre for AIDS Services for Women needs volunteers. Info: 954-0170, Basia.

Nice Jewish Girls: Jewish, lesbian/bisexual and interested in being part of a discussion and/or spiritual/social/activist group? Info: 848-7431.

The Concordia Student Safety Patrol needs female volunteers! If you have an extra 6 hours/month, please sign up. 848-8700.

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre provides free counselling and emotional support, medical assessment and treatment, information on police and court procedures, court accompaniment, support groups for survivors and public education on sexual assault issues. Info: 934-4504.

Concordia Women's Centre provides a lounge area for women in the University Community, referral and support, information and community notice boards. 2020 Mackay, downstairs. 848-7431.

Jeunes Avec Toit offers shared, inexpensive accommodation for young women (18-30) in need of shelter who wish to upgrade their job or life skills. Referral services, individual support, life skills programs. Info: Doreen or Mary Denis, 769-0855.

Literacy Centre. Anglophone women aged 16 and older who need help learning to read and write should contact the Women's Y. Personal tutoring services are free and based on each student's special needs. For more information, to volunteer or refer someone, call 866-9941, ext. 278.

Need Experience with Pre-schoolers or multiculturalism? Parenthèse is a unique playgroup for immigrant moms and their children and is looking for volunteers. Tues. or Thurs. 1-4:15 pm. Info: Cyndy, 934-0354, ext. 354.

YWCA's Active Listening and Referral Service needs volunteers to lend an empathetic ear to women in need. Fridays 10 am to 6 pm. Fifteen hour training course required. Info: Lynda Tétrault, 866-9941, ext. 293.

Don't be Whitewashed! Non-chlorine bleached, environmentally-friendly women's hygiene products available at Q-PIRG, 2135 Mackay. Info: 848-7585.

Mouvement contre le viol: 842-5040.

Centre des femmes de Montréal: Services de première ligne, 842-4780; Service aux femmes immigrantes, 842-0814; Option'Elle, 842-6652; Formation'Elle, 842-4776.

The Montréal Assault Prevention Centre offers a self-defense course called ACTION for women. Each course provides verbal and physical techniques to help women deal with any type of aggression. Info: 284-1212. For information on upcoming courses on campus, contact the Women's Centre: 848-7431. Next scheduled session Nov. 11.

Women's Employment Counselling at the "Y" helps women to seek employment, return to work or explore their interests and aptitudes. Eng. & Fr. Free. Info: 866-9941.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Rates: 20¢ per word for Concordia Arts & Science and Fine Arts undergraduate students; 25¢ per word for all others (plus applicable taxes). Deadlines are 4pm Friday for Tuesday issues, 4pm Wednesday for Friday issues. Classified advertising must be purchased in our offices in room H-649. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm. Ads must be accompanied by full payment. We do NOT take classified ads by phone, fax, or mail.

TYPING

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Ikea 3-piece workstation, only $150; 4 matching armchairs, $40. 935-5614, 739-3507.

APARTMENTS

Lofts in Old Montreal, close to Metro Victoria. Heated, sprinklered, high ceilings, low rent. 861-3787.

New Administration. Apts. for rent: 1 1/2 2 1/2, 3 1/2. $285 to $350, electricity not included. For info, tel: 333-7724.

WANTED

Purchasing women's sandals & clogs. Neal: 898-7839.

HELP WANTED

Subjects needed for a psychology experiment involving the study of cognitive processes. It is a great opportunity to learn more about yourself and to contribute to the advancement of science. Participation is paid. Please call France: 768-2448.

Urgently need tutoring! Numerical Methods "361." 935-5932.

Group Leader needed for Dawson Israel Semester Program–January 4 to May 15 1995. Qualifications: Experience working with youth, previous visit to Israel, knowledge of Hebrew. Contact N. Parry, Dawson College, 931-8731, loc. 1473 or 486-2076.

Paid participation in hypnosis research. the hypnosis laboratory is seeking volunteers to participate in studies on hypnosis and related cognitive abilities. If interested, call 848-2213 on Mondays between 12 pm & 4 pm; on Wednesdays between 1 pm & 3 pm; on Thursdays between 4 pm & 6 pm; or on Fridays between 2 pm & 4 pm. Volunteers will be paid for their participation.

PERSONAL

I need someone knowledgable in Quebec-Canada politics, especially in aspects of blingualism. Willing to pay. Price to be discussed. Urgent! Call 695-3442. Leave message.

Tarot consultations. 931-8807, Jason.

GENERAL

Graduate Student get-togethers with the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies. Dean Martin Kusy would like to meet with graduate students this year on an informal basis. Sessions have been arranged for this purpose from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at our Graduate Administration Offices, 2145 Mackay Street, on the following dates: First Semester: Thursday, November 10, 1994. Second Semester: Tuesday, January 31, 1995; Monday, February 13, 1995. Our space is limited. Please reserve one of the above dates by contacting Ms. Kali Sakell at 848-3803. We look forward to seeing you.

LOST & FOUND

Lost: Braided silver bracelet (small) in Hall Building on Friday, October 21. Sentimental Value. Reward. Shira, 488-7673.

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Loyola candidates...eenie meenie mynie mo

by Peter Lucier

Social housing and park safety were the main issues discussed Wednesday evening at the Loyola district candidates forum.

Over 30 people attended the meeting at the Montreal Association for the Blind, located in the heart of the Loyola district. The five candidates, Mirka Bozzato of Vision Montreal, Sharon Leslie of the Montreal Citizens' Movement, Deborah Rankin of the Democratic Coalition-Ecology Montreal, Jeremy Searle of the Montrealer's Party and independent Al Rhino Feldman each had the opportunity to describe their platform and then responded to random questions from the public.

The candidates had varying views on how to support social housing, which has become a major issue in the district due to rising poverty.

Sharon Leslie, the present councillor for Loyola, is running for a third mandate. She said she is a strong supporter of social housing, quoting some 500 functional units presently in the Loyola district. She added that she is working to help promote recycling and the provision of bilingual services.

To bring more business into Montreal, Leslie said that continuing to focus on tourism and conferences would bring people to the city who would eventually return to invest. She added that a substantial amount of funds have, and will continue to be allocated to fixing streets and potholes. Leslie concluded that she would continue to listen to the people as she has in the past.

Jeremy Searle, the candidate from the Montrealer's Party, said he is in favour of repairing current buildings for social housing rather than building new ones. He also stated that he is in favour of seeing social housing become cooperative or being sold to tenants.

Searle directly addressed issues regarding senior citizens. He said that he would make it a point to make streets and sidewalks safer and more enjoyable for them.

He also commented on the condition of the parks in the Loyola district, saying that they need to be maintained, and that owners should pick up after their pets. He said that he would effect change by making visible improvements, such as the new sidewalks.

Mirka Bozzato said that reducing the rate of unemployment was the key to alleviating the need for social housing. She expressed interest in repairing several roads and water systems, but was vague when asked to justify the cost of dog licence.

"Vote for me, then we'll talk," she said.

Deborah Rankin, of the Democratic Coalition-Ecology Montreal, referred to her own mugging to illustrate the need for more policing in the district. Rankin commented that parks in Loyola are poorly maintained and have not been renovated in thirty years. She said the reason for this is a poor allocation of funds and said that in her charge, this would be adjusted.

She said she is strongly opposed to frivolous spending in government. She had been opposed to the municipal surtax long before anyone else "jumped on the band wagon," she said.

Rankin stated that she is opposed to the exhibition of whales at Biodome. She also outlined her intention to protect the rights of non-smokers in public places.

Al Rhino Feldman, an independent candidate, began by comparing his competitors to lazy hippopotami, and himself a rhinoceros, a very "focused, charging beast."

Feldman said he is opposed to social housing, asking the question: "Who would want the city as their landlord?" He is in favour of selling government housing units to the tenants rather than renting.

Feldman's humorous angle provided insight and even comic relief for most of the evening. In his response to a question regarding a $40,000 dog park, Feldman acknowledged the need for a park, but stated that dogs don't care how much it costs, "they just want a place to run."

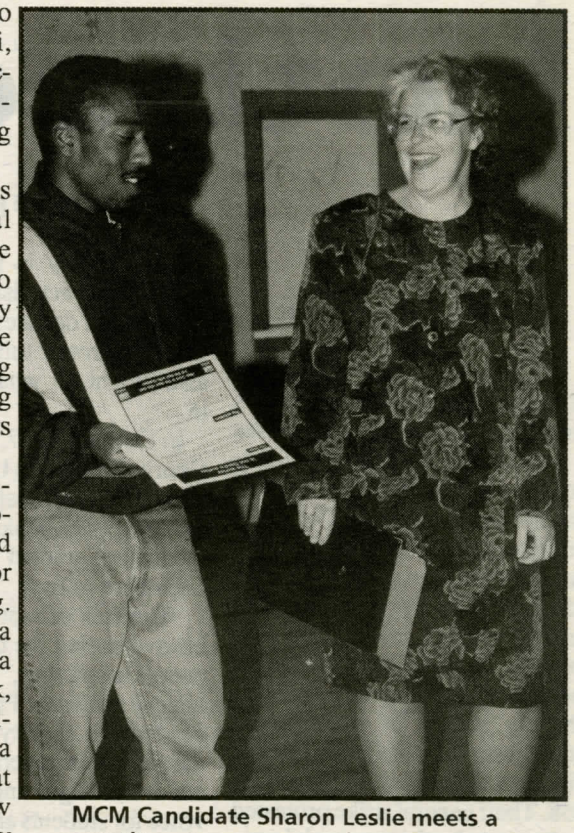


photo by George Paquin

MCM Candidate Sharon Leslie meets a constituent

The municipal election will be held November 6, and voters will be called upon to use their better judgement and decide on a councillor for the district. Or perhaps, in the words of Mr. Feldman, use "Eenie meenie mynie moe!"

Mtl Haitians look to future for homeland

by Ingrid Bejerman

While restored Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide and his supporters try to dig Haiti out from under the rubble of a three-year military regime, Haitian Montrealers are hoping the turning point has finally come for their country.

Serge Bouchereau, spokesperson for Haïtiens de Montréal, said that Aristide's return should serve as a motivation for Haitians to improve their country's situation.

"Aristide's return was a historic event for the world—it's the first time ever that an elected president-in-exile returns to power. It was a great achievement, and we will use it to continue strengthening ourselves with the power of democracy and keep on fighting," said Bouchereau.

Aristide, the first democratically-elected president in Haïti's troubled history, was overthrown after a military coup d'état in 1991. General Raoul Cédras only agreed to leave the country last month, after the United States put pressure on the junta.

An estimated four million have been killed under the Cédras regime.

Bouchereau acknowledges it will require much effort and commitment on the part of Haitians to rebuild their country after such devastation.

"The country is a mess. We have to re-establish our education system, and our children have to become literate. We have to build hospitals and provide adequate facilities to treat our people—more doctors, nurses, beds, " he said.

Like other Haitian Montrealers, Bouchereau thinks the first step toward the creation of a new country consists in bringing the members of the military regime to justice by trying them for crimes against humanity.

"We will never be able to resuscitate those that we have lost, but we can still make reparations to the victims and/or their families," Bouchereau said.

"People are still waiting for justice—there are orphans out there who have lost their families, people which have suffered severe violations, both physical and mental. How do you correct that? You can't. But neglecting them is just as bad a sin—it's even worse if you remain indifferent," he added.

The Ralliement des Etudiants de Montréal pour la Liberté du Peuple Haïtien is preparing a petition calling for a World Court trial against the military junta.

Michel Sanon, coordinator of the Ralliement, says that president Aristide's return can only be beneficial to the country, but that there is much work to be done.

"This (Aristide's return) is the first step, however, as the first step, it should be taken carefully and decisively. Haitians should take this opportunity—this climax of democracy—and develop it to its fullest so that the leaders and the people of Haiti can start to fill in the blanks and put the country back together," he said.

Sanon says he is optimistic about Aristide's plan to install a new, autonomous police force. Aristide wants to bring down the present number of police officers to 1,500, from the 7,000 under Cédras, and put them to work to restore order in the country. Some Haitian Montrealers are training with the RCMP to this purpose.

"The police will set the stage for a new system where the rights of the people will no longer be violated," Sanon said.

Bouchereau says rebuilding the "non-existent" judiciary system is like "starting from zero."

"For Canadians, it may be considered normal that the police works for the citizens. In Haiti, it's just the opposite—we have to ensure that they are there to protect the goods and the rights of the citizens," he said.

The American presence in Haïti will continue until Aristide's government firmly establishes itself. Sanon sees this as a good starting point, saying that a temporary occupation is better than a dictatorship.

Bouchereau disagrees.

"We have to live our lives the way we want to live them. We can take care of ourselves, we don't need a third party telling us what we should or shouldn't do. We can run our country in a democratic way—we want to have our own system," he said.

"But I am optimistic. Although a lot has to be done, Haiti will get there. I know that, because our people are courageous and strong—and that's what it takes to do it."

Québec dit "non" à Axworthy

par Louise Bourque

Les recommendations de la réforme Axworthy sur le financement des études universitaires, qui sont présentement au centre d'une énorme contreverse, ne semblent pas faire partis des plans du ministère de l'Éducation du Québec.

"Au Québec, le système de prêts et bourses marche très bien, pourquoi compliquer les choses?" objecte Simon Bégin, attaché de presse au cabinet du ministre Jean Garon. "Le fédéral a marché là-dedans en nous accordant une enveloppe."

Ce projet inquiète pourtant les étudiants de l'université Concordia. Le ministre des Ressources humaines, Lloyd Axworthy, couperait les paiements de transfert en espèces aux provinces, ce qui se traduirait par une augmentation directe des frais de scolarité.

Le système fédéral n'en deviendrait que plus lourd en accordant une aide directe aux étudiants qui n'auraient qu'à en faire la demande.

"Déjà, les rapports indiquent que le fédéral affronte 30 pour cent de pertes lorsqu'il vient à récupérer l'argent prêté," ajoutait M. Bégin.

L'aspect inquiétant de cette réforme selon Roger Coté, directeur de l'Aide financière de Concordia, c'est "le transfert du fardeau du coût de l'éducation qui passe vers l'usager".

D'une part, une économie de marché risque de surgir: l'étudiant deviendrait un consommateur. D'autre part, on peut se demander si les universités réussiraient à couvrir leurs frais.

"Un médecin coûte plus cher à former qu'un historien," ajoute-t-il en pointant l'obligation aux institutions d'enseignement de moduler leurs frais par programme.

Louis Gendrault, rejoint à la Direction des politiques et du développement des universités, n'a pas encore réagi: "Nous on s'est limité sur l'étude de la réforme qui est trop récente."

Mais l'Association étudiante de Concordia foncera vers Ottawa le 16 novembre.

Lana Grimes, vice-présidente à l'administration, est outrée de ce que le gouvernement fédéral essaie d'appliquer, une solution choc à un problème qu'il évalue selon ses critères à lui.

"Nous avons dix ans pour trouver une solution qui ne soit pas sur le dos des étudiants."

Feature

Concordia is a hotbed of social rest

by Paul Hainsworth

The fact that Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy proposes to cut funding to post-secondary education should come as no surprise to Quebec students. The threat of tuition hikes and funding cuts to education has been around since the 1950s. But, in the past, students banded together quickly and passionately to fight such menaces. Today, they are slow to respond..

Ninety percent of students did not show up for class at Sir George William's University.on March 11, 1958. Their general strike protested funding cuts by the provincial government.

Fears of provincial plans to raise tuition sparked a protest march of 600 students in Quebec city on November 15, 1984.

In support of Concordia's publicity campaign mourning "the death of quality education", Rector Patrick Kenniff gave the eulogy at a mock funeral on November 27, 1985 to draw attention to Concordia's financial crisis.

In 1989, when the federal government moved to unfreeze tuition in Quebec and quadruple tuition fees, Concordia students again took to the streets.

But, when affronted with the possibility of paying up to $5000 in tuition and of incurring debts close to $60,000 for an education, Concordia students remain for the most part apathetic. They have yet to react to Axworthy's green paper. Titled "Improving Social Security in Canada," it proposes to cut federal transfer payments to the provinces, representing a loss of over $2.6 billion for post-secondary institutions.

McGill students did organize a small protest when Axworthy spoke at their university in early October, but no mass-student demonstration was mobilized for the occasion. The Concordia Student Union could not even muster quorum at their first council meeting after the green paper's release. Quorum is required for passing a motion on an official stance and for decision-making on a plan of action. Other student groups on campus have not organized any resistance yet either.

Activism in the past

Such apathy is not in keeping with student activism at Concordia in previous decades. Not only did students protest tuition hikes, they also fought for what they believed in.

In October 1967, students at Sir George William's University challenged the high cost of textbooks at the university bookstore as well as the lack of student input in setting bookstore policy.

"The lack of representative bodies overseeing the bookstore made people suspicious," said Concordia history professor Frank Chalk who headed the faculty association in the sixties. In general, student leaders were beginning to demand a voice for students and greater openness in university affairs, explained Chalk.

More than 140 students staged an overnight sleep-in at the lobby of the Hall building, and over a thousand students from Sir George , McGill and University of Montreal joined them the next day. Most professors canceled their classes in a show of support.

Chalk pointed to the bookstore protest as the catalyst leading to greater openness in university affairs and to a student voice in how policies and budgets are determined. It also paved the way to student representation on decision making bodies like Senate, the Board of Governors, and faculty associations.

Demonstrating against Vietnam

Chalk, along with another Sir George professor, was also responsible for organizing a massive "teach-in" at McGill university in October, 1965. 3,500 students listened to a panel of experts debate and lecture both sides of U.S. and Canadian foreign policy in Vietnam.

In November 1967, Sir George students joined a march of 2000 organized by the Montreal Committee for Peace and Self-Determination in Vietnam.

Another demonstration later in 1967 at the American consulate included about 300 Sir George students. Activists worked the crowd of 1500 up so much that both police and student leaders feared they would lose control of the crowd. When a bottle was tossed at the consulate, police intervened, beating and arresting protesters.

The Computer Riot

Yet, nothing compares to the 1969 computer riot, often referred to as the "grand-daddy of Canadian student protests." In 1968, six West Indian students at Sir George accused an assistant biology professor of racism. A hearing committee comprised of students, the administration and the professor was set up that year to look into the charges.

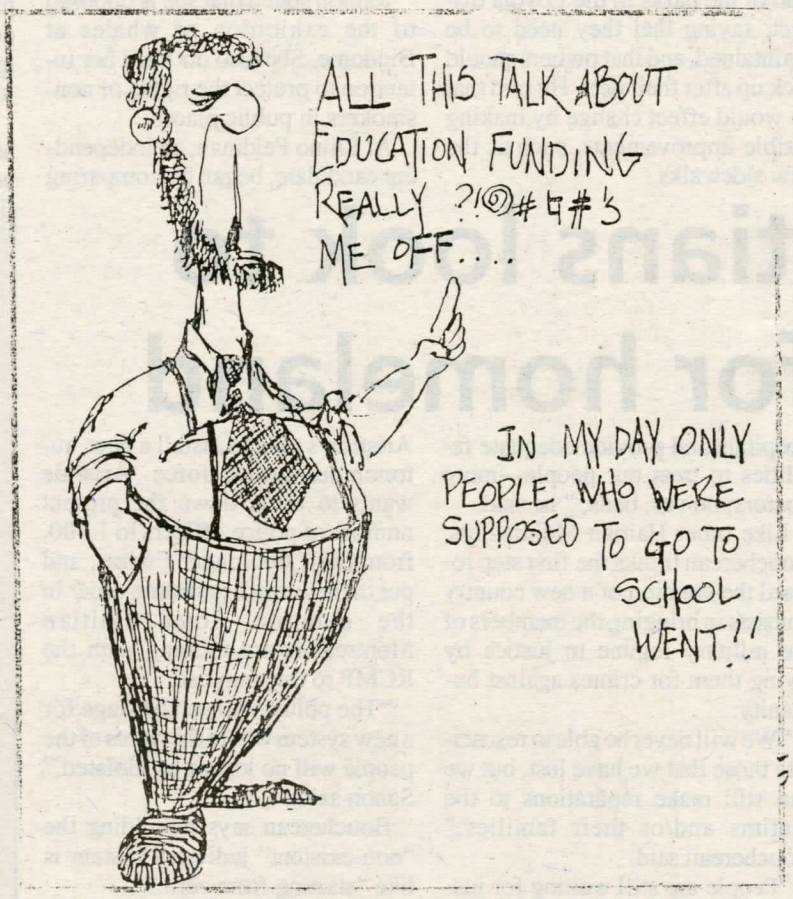
Dissatisfied with those who had been chosen as representatives for the committee, the group of six and 200 other students walked out of the hearings and occupied the ninth floor computer centre on January 29, 1969. Nine days later, they also took over the seventh floor faculty lounge.

On February 10, lawyers on both sides drew up proposals to end the occupation, on condition that the administration establish a new hearing committee, and help the black students catch up on the work they missed during the occupation. Believing that the document had been approved by the administration, students began to leave the building.

But negotiations broke down, and the remaining 97 students in the building barricaded the seventh floor stairway with desks, cut the phone lines, and stopped the elevators. They destroyed the much of the computer equipment, and when riot police arrived, the students set fire to the barricades. The students were arrested and charged. Damages were estimated at $2 million.

The professor charged for his racist comments was reinstated the next day, and the hearing committee later found him not guilty, stating that there was "nothing in evidence to substantiate a general charge of racism."

The riot did bring about some changes, however. It forced the university to look at how it handled internal procedures and then alter them. On April 1971, both the University Regulations on Rights and Responsibilities as well as an Ombuds office were established.



Why apathy today?

After examining its active past, Concordia seems eerily quiet and indifferent today. Where have the placards gone? Where are the chanting protesters? What happened to the mobs of angry students?

Chalk points to the introduction of the Cegep system as fundamental to undermining student activism. After Cegep's were initiated, universities dropped their degree lengths from four to three years.

"By the fourth year, students had a lot of self-confidence and new the rules, had a vision of how to improve the place. Three years makes it much tougher to do that. With four years, you feel like you've got a greater stake in the place," he said.

Manny Kelles, student union president at Sir George during the time of the computer riot, points to the bad economic situation today as a cause of student apathy. "'I'm trying to earn a living so leave me alone' is the attitude today," he said. "People are trying to hold onto a job, and not rock the boat. Some of that attitude seeps down to kids today."

Not prone to the sixties

Donald Boisvert, vice rector services, argues that it's not that students today aren't necessarily as committed as in sixties, but that the means of protest have changed.

"Students today are not as prone to the great symbolic acts of the sixties. They're a far more hands-on bunch," he said.

Boisvert points to student groups like Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG), an umbrella organization that helps groups get started on social and environmental projects.

"QPIRG is the inheritor of pure sixties activism, but in a more practical and focused way," he said, "They're less glamorous, and realize the need to be more patient. Instead of trying to change the world, you try to change your little corner of it."

Douglas Lobel, a member of the board of directors at the Concordia chapter of QPIRG, agrees with Boisvert that today's tactics are much different than the tactics of the sixties. "The sit-in is not as effective today. Now we need more compromise, more discussion. In the sixties, people would protest, and then discuss."

But Lobel also admits that Concordia students, and students in general, "don't want to raise hell as much. Unless it actually concerns us, we don't want to spend the time."

No common thread

Lana Grimes, VP administration of the Concordia Student Union, and active in student politics since 1988, agrees with Lobel's argument.

"The age of the general strike has gone, because people think it's not going to change anything," she says.

In accounting for students' apathy towards current issues like the Axworthy discussion paper, Grimes points to a disjointed student body. "We've become very isolated in our concerns and have forgotten the common thread that we're all students, and all affected by things like quality education and accessibility to it."

Grimes is organizing the Concordia contingent of a student protest in Ottawa on November 16. Started by the University of Ottawa, the protest on Parliament Hill is expected to gather over 10,000 students.

Erratum

In Issue number 12, the Link did not credit Justin Rochefort for his photo on page 6, and Ray Rui-Hu for his photos on page 15.

-The Link regrets the error.

SOUND IN WORDS IN SOUND
THE SPOKEN WORD

by Tracy Bohan

Feminist Audre Lorde once insisted that "poetry is not a luxury," thus challenging it's reputation as an elitist, stuffy art form, somehow irrelevant to contemporary culture. If the last couple of years are any indication, Lorde's words have proven prophetic. Poetry is starting to escape the dusty confines of academia and make its way back toward the heart of popular culture via the medium of "spoken word".

Defining spoken word

Even though "spoken word" is a common phrase these days, few people are willing—or able—to define the genre precisely.

"People are used to categorizing: 'that's music', 'that's art', and so on," notes local poet/journalist Lynn Suderman. "But the closer you get to pinning down spoken word, the more it loses its magic."

There are purists who insist that spoken word should consist only of the performance of a poem without musical accompaniment or theatrical props, but a broader definition of the medium advocates the use of any means available to communicate with an audience.

Raymond Beauchemin, co-organizer of the Urban Wanderers reading series (currently underway Monday nights at Bistro 4), sees spoken word as a return to poetry's roots.

"I look at poetry as an oral tradition, one that's older than the printing press. Poetry is a very oral, very spoken medium. It is meant to be spoken aloud," he said.

While Beauchemin's perspective is grounded in literary tradition, Victoria Stanton comes to spoken word from a different direction. A Concordia Fine Arts student with an extensive theatre background, she emphasizes performance rather than poetry in her approach to spoken word.

Stanton places her own work within the context of performance art, a movement that shook up the art world in the 1970's.

"Performance art came out of a need for additional ways of expression beyond the traditional genres of theatre and painting. I would characterize what I do as 'low-tech' performance compared with someone like Laurie Anderson, but it's still a multi-media concept," she said.

Like many of her contemporaries, Stanton was 'doing' spoken word long before anyone started calling it that.

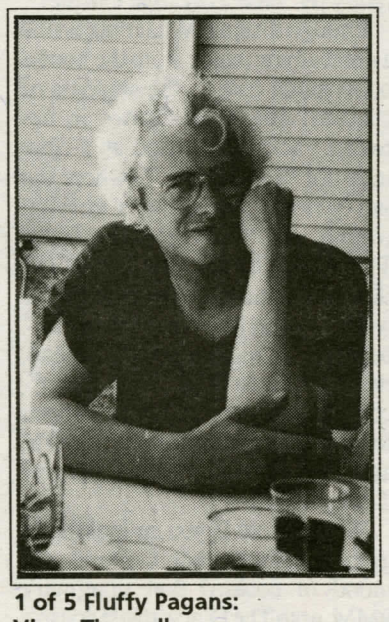
"I only recently became aware of 'spoken word' as a term for this kind of art-making," she said.

It is perhaps easier to describe what spoken word is not. Spoken word is not, strictly speaking, poetry or music or theatre. Although, depending upon whom you ask, it often incorporates elements of all three.

The spoken world revival

Whether you call it spoken word, performance poetry or just good old-fashioned storytelling, there are more and more opportunities to experience this type of art. In the last few months, Montreal has been showcasing regular performances by locals such as At Random, Dee Smith, Ian Stephens and Fluffy Pagan Echoes. Two of the most celebrated American spoken word artists, the legendary Gil Scott Heron and MTV darling Maggie Estep, played to full houses last month.

CKUT, a long-time supporter of the scene, is currently running "Wired on Words", a series of spoken word spots recorded by local talent such as Stephens and Suderman. The station is also host to a weekly spoken word program called "Grey Matters" (Thursdays from 7-9 pm). Hosted by veteran



1 of 5 Fluffy Pagans:
Vince Tinguelly

performer Fortner Anderson, the show presents local performers and their contemporaries as well as "classic cuts" from the likes of The Last Poets, William Burroughs and Anais Nin.

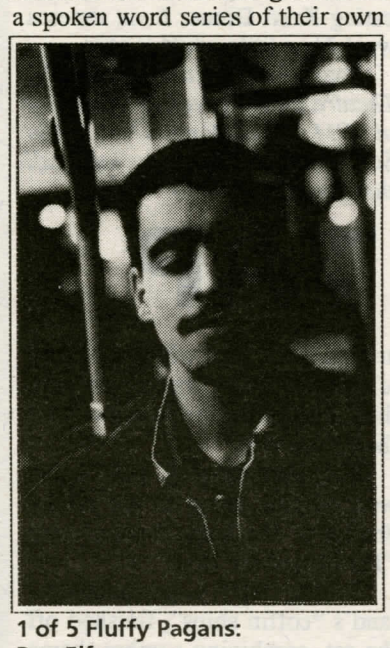
Anderson is emphatic about spoken word's cultural importance.

"It's the only manner to present poetry in our time," he maintains.

According to *The Globe and Mail*, the average volume of poetry sells 396 copies in Canada, and the only major publishing house that still publishes Canadian poetry is McClelland & Stewart. The so-called "spoken word revival" may be the contemporary poet's most effective means to reach an audience.

2 of 5 Fluffy pagans: Scott Duncan, Victoria Stanton.

There is no doubt that an effort to translate spoken word's "street credibility" into commercial viability is underway. This summer, Lolapalooza featured a spoken word stage starring Estep and Reg E. Gaines. MTV made them pop stars in the States, and, in typical fashion, Much Music is following suit with a spoken word series of their own



1 of 5 Fluffy Pagans:
Ran Elfassy

called "Word Up'.

These days, Clifton Joseph's highly political rhymes share airtime with the latest Aerosmith video. While this may seem subversive to some, others are concerned that spoken word is being merely marketed as a "flavour of the month."

"Spoken Word is trendy right now, and people are definitely cashing in," said Suderman. "With anything that becomes trendy, you get a lot of bottom-feeders."

As spoken word becomes neatly packaged for the masses, there are inevitably going to be some aspects lost or ignored in the translation.

What is at stake is spoken word's ability to create a space beyond so-called "legitimate" art forms (Literature, Theatre, etc.) for voices that might not otherwise have been heard. From the revolutionary Last Poets (out of Harlem in the mid-'60's) to the passionate feminist "rap" of Montreal's Andrea Clarke, spoken word has often been characterized by its political edge.

"What worries me most about MTV's approach, for example, is who gets overlooked," said Suderman, pointing out that MTV ignored radically political black artists like Dana Bryant and Dariss James in their bid to bring the spoken word to teenage America.

The future of spoken word

In the long run, Suderman hopes that the future of spoken word will include a return to a more meaningful communication.

1 0f 5 Fluffy Pagans:
Justin McGrrail

"The tendency right now is to go for things that are just a little bit 'naughty'. It's a question of getting beyond things that only have shock value," Suderman said.

For her part, Stanton is determined to hold on to spoken word as a form of "grass-roots art-making."

"In an age when we're bombarded with so much technology, [spoken word] is something so accessible that it seems new and vital again.

"What I'm really interested in right now is guerrilla performance," she said, referring to the kind of unannounced spoken word performances that are starting to crop up in unexpected places (such as fast food restaurants and public transit vehicles) in major urban centres all over North America.

Spoken word in action

A recent performance by Stanton at the Pheonix Café illustrated how far spoken word strays from poetry's ivory-tower image.

A group of five performers including Stanton, Scott Duncan, Ran Elfassy, Justin McGrail and Vince Tinguelly billed themselves as Fluffy Pagan Echoes (asking the rhetorical question 'What does a fluffy pagan echo?').

The place was packed, but the usual din of chatter was replaced with an atmosphere of rapt stillness, punctuated by bursts of laughter and applause. The group chose "balance" as a theme for the evening and took rotating turns at the microphone to deliver poems and stories that hinged (however loosely) upon this motif.

What followed was an evening of performances that were funny, intense, and utterly unpretentious, quickly dissolving the stereotypes associated with traditional poetry readings. In other words, the Pagans did not indulge in any of the angst-ridden posing or "feel-me-bleed" howling that became the coffee house schtick in the '60's.

Among the highlights of the event was a wry piece by Stanton about the relationship between sexual politics and the ability to piss out of a canoe, aptly titled "Take it Standing".

Another memorable moment was McGrail's "cover version" of John Milton's "Samson Agonistes". McGrail set his version in a contemporary context—the Gaza Strip—and suddenly the poem acquired a new and chilling resonance. By the end of McGrail's spoken word rendering of this arduous 17th century piece, the crowd was wild about Milton. It was an English professor's wet dream.

Brecht's Baal gets rolling at OK Theatre

by Paul Hainsworth

"Baal is one of those people who would never kiss the right ass and becomes ruined as a result of it," said **Michael Saurette** of his role in **OK Theatre Company**'s production of Bertolt Brecht's *Baal*.

Astoundingly bleak stuff, but it's always fascinating to observe someone's self-degradation.

The play chronicles the self-destruction of an artist, starting with Baal as an up-and-coming poet in upper class social circles. "But he blows all his chances until he runs out of [them]," said Saurette.

The audience is treated to a grotesque display of human degradation, with Baal becoming a cruel, lazy, drunk womanizer who poisons everything and everyone around him as he descends deeper. He creates and develops an "elephant skin", that shields him from feeling his own pain and from being sensitive to others.

"He has made the choice to be a pure artist, to maintain an emotional distance from all people," explained Saurette. "This separation made him crueler until he's lost everyone who cared for him."

With a story this heavy, a cast of thirteen who often share the stage simultaneously, and Brecht's fast-paced, episodic scenes, the show is a tall order. But this young, rag-tag company, comprised of untrained as well as professional actors manages, despite some flaws, to put on a show that is both intriguing and entertaining.

The lead actors carry the play competently, but it is often the minor actors in the background whose attention to detail give the performance a professional touch.

Saurette as Baal puts in a strong performance in the first half, but loses steam in the end, mostly because he was not expecting to be the lead role. The actor scheduled to play Baal was fired four days prior to opening night, according to Poch, because he didn't have his lines memorized.

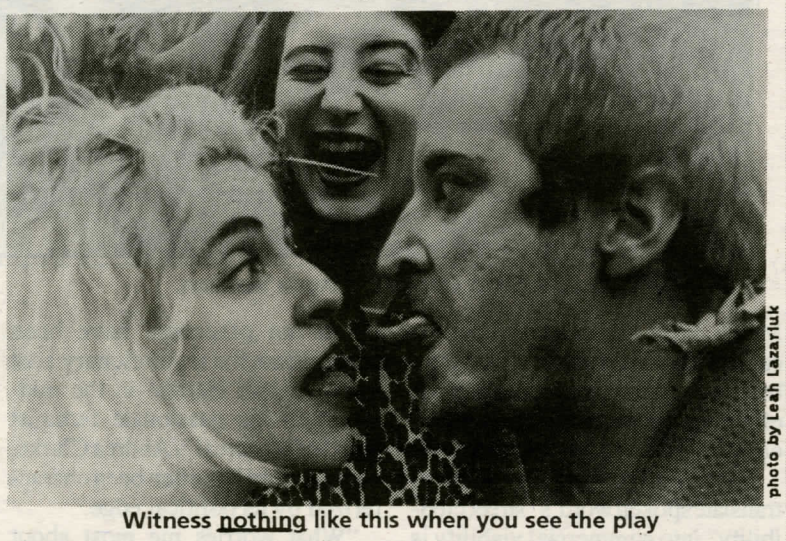


photo by Leah Lazariuk

Witness nothing like this when you see the play

The stage is bare, to accommodate Brecht's countless scene changes. Strategically placed multiple-level risers allow for the cast to be on the small stage simultaneously, without standing in each others way. And it's amazing what the company accomplishes with its low-budget lighting setup.

In fact, low-budget can be used to describe every aspect of the show. But don't let the fact that they don't have any money fool you. Everything about these people is good; it's only their budget that needs work. And as Montreal's only theatre company that's working out of its own space, they're bound to become the "Little Theatre that Could," if they can only handle eating Kraft Dinner 6 six times a week for a little while longer.

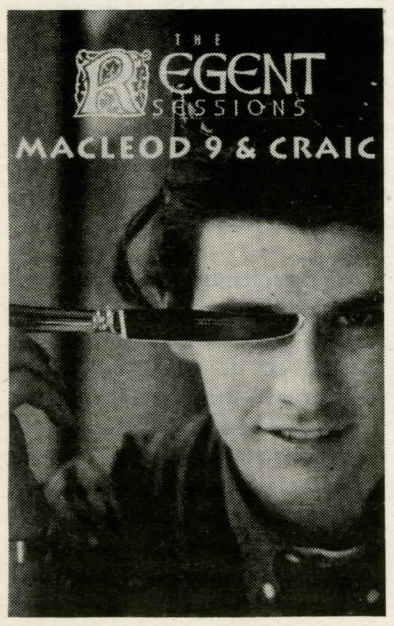
•Baal *continues its run at the OK Theatre until November 6, nightly at 9PM. Admission is $7-10, 3480 St. Dominique. For more info, call them up at 982-9050.*

CRAIC ON TAP

by T'cha Dunlevy

The mood was relaxed in Hurley's Irish Pub early Wednesday night. The occasion was the cassette launch for local Celtic songsters **McLeod 9** and **Craic** (pronounced "crack").

Alasdair Gillis and **Jonathan Moorman**, on boussouki and violin respectively, started things off well with some traditional Irish reels and jigs, murmuring humble "Thank you"'s in between.



Pints of Guinness, Smithwicks and the like flowed as freely as the conversation; tables in the small Crescent street bar began to fill up and hints of anticipation grew slowly.

The small room filled quickly as McLeod 9 (aka **Scott McLeod**) finally took the stage, unpretentiously seating himself on a stool and tuning his guitar, the band filtering in around him.

The music was a sort of Celtic-rock crossover; traditional Irish instrumentation mixed with hard-strumming guitar, and rounded out by McLeod's deep, steady voice.

The five-song set started off with "Song to Justify Her Departure", a slow, mournful ballad, uplifted by Moorman's sensitive violin and the soulful harmonies of back-up singers Jean-Elliott Maning and Karen Morisson.

McLeod provided some cultural background to "Losing the Father", an emotional song about a Celtic wake: "At a Celtic wake, people stand around the grave and pass around a bottle of whisky; as they tell stories about the person who died, everyone gets to know who the person was."

Toes were tapping and people were singing along to the catchy chorus of the Cape Breton song "Thistle and the Rose".

"Sailing 1847", a song about Ireland's "coffin ships", finished off the set, combining sombre theme with upbeat music.

The reception was loud and friendly from the fairly mixed crowd; the band came back for an encore with a couple of more traditional Celtic tunes.

The musicianship was strong all the way around, McLeod's vocals confident and the harmonies sweet, but the music lost poignancy in its inability to find a firm standing ground, lingering between Celtic folk and modern rock.

The strongest moments were in the last two songs of the first set and in the traditional jigs of the encore—when the band picked up the pace.

The slow ballads lacked originality and at times coming close to radio rock, whereas, when the music was able to break free of its themes, it took on a life of its own.

In the end, it was a night of celebration as McLeod's Craic-ers tried to get something different off the ground. MusiquePlus even showed support by dropping in on the action.

graphic by Tim Pryor

Keep a lookout for the cassette, "The Regent Sessions", and the band, McLeod 9 and Craic, and judge for yourself... and, oh yeah... slide me another Guinness.

SPINS

Scarface
The Diary
Virgin

by Jon Richler

Gangsta rapper **Scarface** has a rap carreer as long as Snoop Dogg wishes his dick could be. This is his fourth solo album, and inbetween troops with the **Geto Boys**, one of the original gangsta groups along with **NWA** (not Hats...), and **Too $hort**.

Like Hasselhoff on Baywatch, and Priestly on 90210, and, more prominently, Too $hort, Scarface sat in the Big Chair this time around. It's all produced by him. Unlike Priestly, the production is flawless, and, somewhat like Hasselhoff, the focus zooms in on the female figure.

But then there's the good stuff. The raw, verbose death stories, and the steamroller, bass-driven cuts that get the head bobbin' for gansta apples, and make you unconsiously purse your lips together, in silent approval of what's goin' on.

Ice Cube even makes it onto one track, dissin those sellout boys on "Hand Of The Dead Body": *"I started this gangsta shit/ in 86/ Now you're dissin me/ For publicity?"*

The voice is the clincher, and what's behind it. Only 23 years behind him, he makes me quiver in my boots when he tosses his experience around like a hand grenade. "I Seen A Man Die (AKA I Never Seen A Man Cry)" spells out the hardships of living and dying in the hood far better than Ice Cube's "Dead Homiez", or that autobiography by....Ice Tray? Ice Coffee?

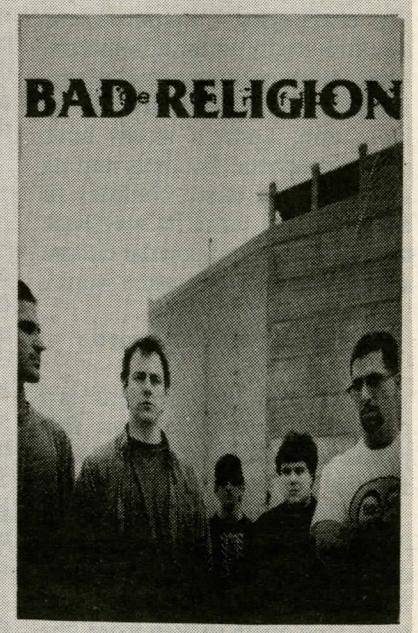
Enough dissing. What makes this a great album, aside from the hooty/booty/bitch cuts, is the snippets of classical music he throws in between tracks. Best used as a flow intro for "Jesse James", where the sad melody flows like a gushing wound into the West Coast bass. This *would* be the best cut, if old Scar could find more words to rhyme with good ol' "muthafucka" besides....."muthafucka". Instead, props go out to "The White Sheet", complete with the official blueprint for attitude raps for the phresh 90's, and the revised "Mind Playin' Tricks"

Bottom line: If you're looking to grab an album that captures the mood of cockin' that imaginary 9MM, grab The Diary. It just doesn't get any more legit. Like the man says, "One time for your muthafuckin' mind".

Bad Religion
Stranger than Fiction
Epitaph/Atlantic

by Sean Moore

Yeah! I'm real sorry that there are so many egg-headed punkrockers out there these days. It is hard to imagine how the numbers have swelled. Everday there's another idiot walking around claiming to have been into some band since way back in the day. This statement is usually followed up with "Man, I can't believe they've sold out and gotten soft." This could be true of several bands, I'm sure, but not of



Bad Religion. *Stranger than Fiction* packs as much punch as any of the previous albums (excluding *Into The Unknown*).

As the Bad Religion lifeline continues to grow, so does their repetoire of catchy harmonies. **Greg Gaffin** utilizes his fluid voice and superior intellect to its fullest potential. Each cut reads like poetry and remains in the back of your mind for the rest of the day. You'll find yourself craving more at the end of album. Raging guitar/bass/drum blasts are given an almost operatic vocal accompaniment and the end result is adrenulin-fueled gooseflesh.

Although each song is exceptional, "Television" really shines bright, as does 'Stranger than Fiction" as does "Incomplete" as does the whole dang thing.

Sellouts? Bullshit! Where the fuck were you in '76, '81 or '94 for that matter? Have some kind words for these hardcore bands that end up making coin, tell me you'd rather flip burgers than make a living doing what you enjoy? Quick on the mic, brash on tunes, Bad Religion still remains one of the best "thinking mans hardcore bands".

Concordia on the road to Vanier Cup

by Danny Chan

The Stingers football team will face a do-or-die situation tomorrow when they host the McGill Redmen in the conference semi-final at Concordia Stadium.

The 1993 league champions reeled off four straight wins to launch the '94 campaign. But they dropped their last three—including last Saturday's 31-30 loss to Bishop's—to finish the O-QIFC season in second with a 4-3 record. The following is an analysis of each position during the '94 season.

Quarterbacks

Starting QB Dennis Pitselis (89-for-168, 53.0 per cent) overcame early-season inconsistency to finish second in the conference with 1482 yards. Spelling Pitselis was second-year QB Dominik Goulet (19-for-45, 42.2 per cent, 368 yards). The Stingers' air attack chalked up 1,850 yards in seven games, enough for second in the O-QIFC.

Receivers

Concordia owned the skies. Inside receiver André Bolduc's 549 yards on 31 receptions were both good for third in the conference. Those numbers, plus his three touchdowns scored, earned him a spot on the O-QIFC all-star team. Receivers Martin Anderson (353 yards on 23 catches), Dio Mastrodomenico (242 yards on 18 catches), Denis Montana (356 yards on 17 catches), and Uzo Ubani (260 yards on 13 catches) rounded out the team's air supremacy.

Running Backs

The established ball-carrying backfield of fullback Mastrodomenico and tailbacks Farrell Duclair and Kevin Norris made the Stingers' running game go. The three combined for 833 yards on 150 carries on top of scoring six TDs via the run. Mastrodomenico also finished second in scoring on the team with 30 points from 5 touchdowns. Overall, Concordia's ground attack racked up 966 yards of offense.

Offensive Line

The Stingers O-line had to plug several holes in '94.

"We're not quite as dominating on the offensive line as we were in the past. But we certainly have the capability to be dominating at certain points of the football game. Now, it's just a matter of consistency and coming together at the right time," said Stingers head coach Pat Sheahan.

Kicking and Special Teams

Excellence and consistency marked the Concordia kicking game. Dimitrios Manolopoulos led the O-QIFC in scoring with 75 points while his 41.4 punting average was also tops in the conference and helped him earn a berth as a league all-star. Cornerback Marc Montreuil and Bolduc both placed in the top five in the conference in punt returns, and Bolduc's 803 all-purpose yards led the team.

Defensive Line

Defensive end Dan Lavallee placed fifth in the conference with five quarterback sacks, while DE Giovanni Petrella was second on the Stingers in both solo tackles and total tackles. Defensive tackles Paul Eyles and Louis Danieli made up the rest of a D-line which Sheahan said had a very good year.

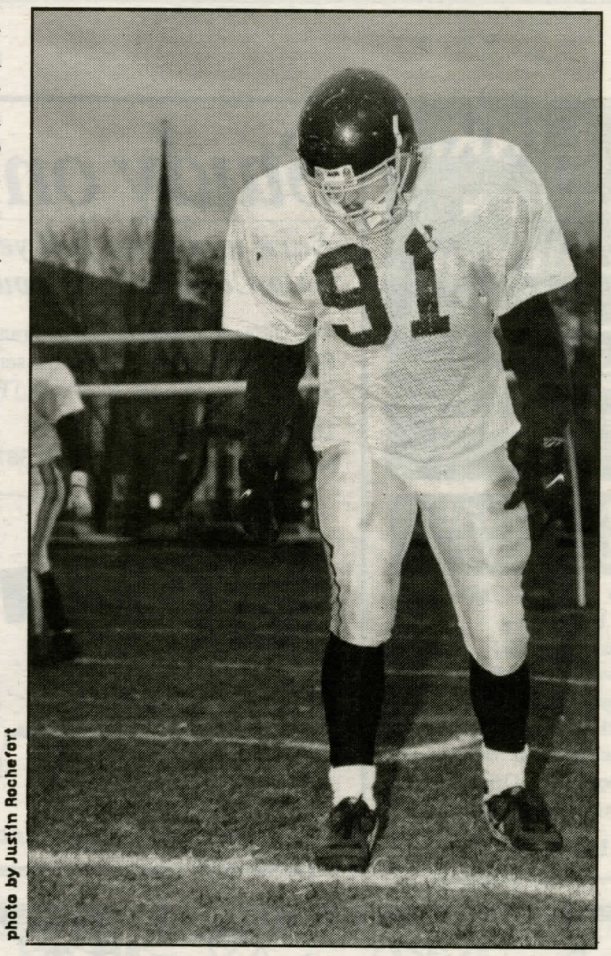


photo by Justin Rochefort

Concordia has a rematch with McGill tomorrow. The game is the first step on the road to the Vanier Cup national Championship

Linebackers

Veteran LB Luc Pelland's conference-leading 31 unassisted tackles and 66 total tackles earned him a berth on the conference all-star team. Robert Taylor and Rob Balazic chipped in with 36 and 20 tackles respectively in '94. Overall, the LBs played the run extremely tough all season.

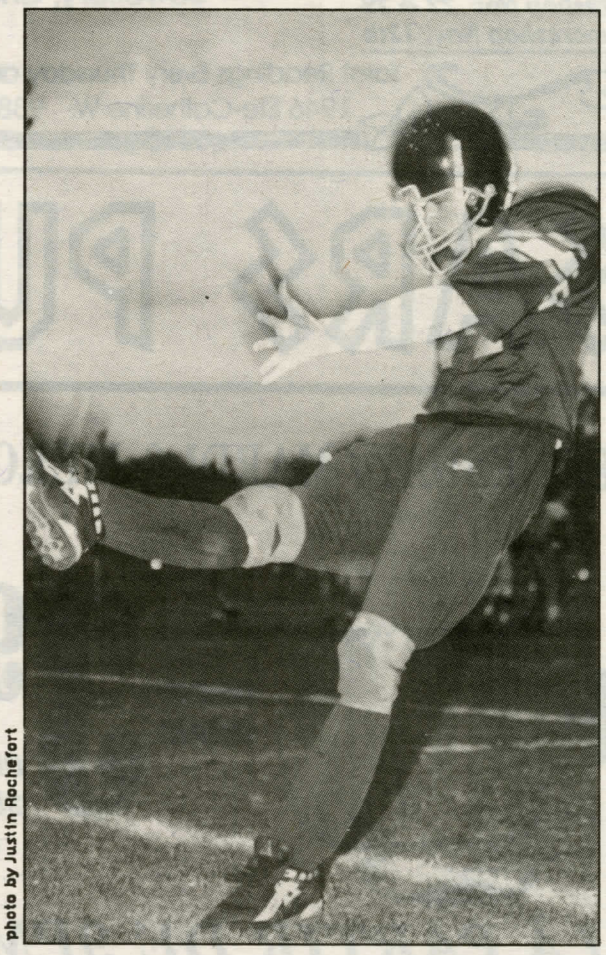


photo by Justin Rochefort

"The Stingers, ranked ninth in the country, will face the eight-ranked McGill Redmen into tomorrow's OQIFC semi-final at Concordia.

Defensive Backs

The defensive secondary's fine year came to a halt last Saturday in Lennoxville, when they allowed the Bishop's QB to go 34-for-49 and notch 383 yards against them. The 34 completions set a new single-game O-QIFC record.

"But that's pretty much the same secondary that helped us capture the O-QIFC championship last year. So they're certainly capable of playing great football in the big game and that's what we'll need from them now," said Sheahan.

Safety Marc Fortier was named to the conference all-star team with 35 total tackles and Marco Ciamarro had 32. Overall, the defensive backfield allowed an average of 236.9 yards passing per game.

Concordia's offence relied heavily on the pass and finished second in the O-QIFC with 380.3 yards per game average. The defence finished fourth by surrendering an average of 345.3 yards per game.but Sheahan said the numbers are misleading.

"One of the injustices of the last couple of weeks was that our defence has been very close to being dominating. We had a couple of breakdowns in each of the last two games and the tale of the tape becomes completely different," said Sheahan. "The numbers are skewed. The numbers that we've given up do not reflect the way the game went."

Despite the three-game skid, Sheahan believes his players are prepared for tomorrow's challenge.

"To their credit, (the players) have remained even-tendered. There has been no panic setting in," said Sheahan. "They still very much believe in themselves. They believe they're a good team. They believe that if they play well—all 60 minutes—they're going to win. That's the hardest part of football: it's to convince people they can win. These guys believe they can win"

Positive look at men's hockey season

by Steve Knodell

Pssst. You want some hockey? We got hockey.

Hey you. You want cold beer and steamed dogs? We got that too.

You want a Championship team? We're working on it.

Entering his fifth year as head coach of Concordia's men's hockey team, Yves Beaucage has reason to sound optimistic about his team's chances of winning it's first title under his tutelage.

The team's goaltending is talented and has depth.

Angelo Karitsiotis (14-13, 3.58) is once again Concordia's starting goalie, giving the team stability and leadership in nets.

Rookie goalies Christian Dutil and 18 year-old Daniel Gagnon, a "pleasant surprise" and "an impact player in the near future" says coach Beaucage, will be giving Karitsiotis some "good, healthy competition" throughout the season.

If there is a weakness on the Stingers, it is on defence, where the team has to break-in three new players: Sebastien Moreau, Paul Noonan, and Martin Laperriere, son of the legendary Jacques Laperriere.

Beaucage will be looking to veterans Mike Pohorly, Benoit Therrien and Eric Rochette to teach and lead on defence, and in all three, leadership and skill are very strong.

Rochette (6'3", 215 lbs) and Therrien (6'1", 206 lbs) are a deadly duo against opposing teams. In the game against McGill, Therrien demolished Kelly Nobes croosing over the middle with his head down, while picking up the winning goal in the third.

Rochette, who led the league in penalty minutes lAst year, is described by Beaucage as "a tiger. He is so strong, he imposes respect for our team. He is a very aggressive, intense human being with great leadership abilities." Rochette was given an A at the beginning of the year.

Not much has changed on offence for the Stingers with a lineup including their top four scorers from last year: Martin Balleux (23-25), team captain Daniel Picard (22-17), Patrice Martineau (14-24), and Daniel Queenton (18-10). As coach Beaucage confirms, "our strength is on offence."

This team has speed in the forwards in the likes of Chris Miller, Marc Drouin, Picard and Queenton. And on a team that has all-round quickness, these four stand out.

If the 6 goal outburst against McGill is any indication of what this team can do, goals will be scored in bunches this year.

If you add in skilled players like Andrew Chlebus, rookie New York Islanders draft pick Daniel Paradis, and sidelined centres Steve Salhany and Pierre Fillion, this team is a contender, right coach?

"To win a championship," insisted coach Beaucage, "first you have to be very good, then you have to have luck on your side. The first playoff series is sudden-death. The next is a best of three. If you run into a hot goalie, you could be eliminated in the first game. You can afford to lose only one game in the playoffs, and that's why it's so tough."

With the tough-to-beat team that Beaucage has this year, the dream, with a little luck, just might come true.

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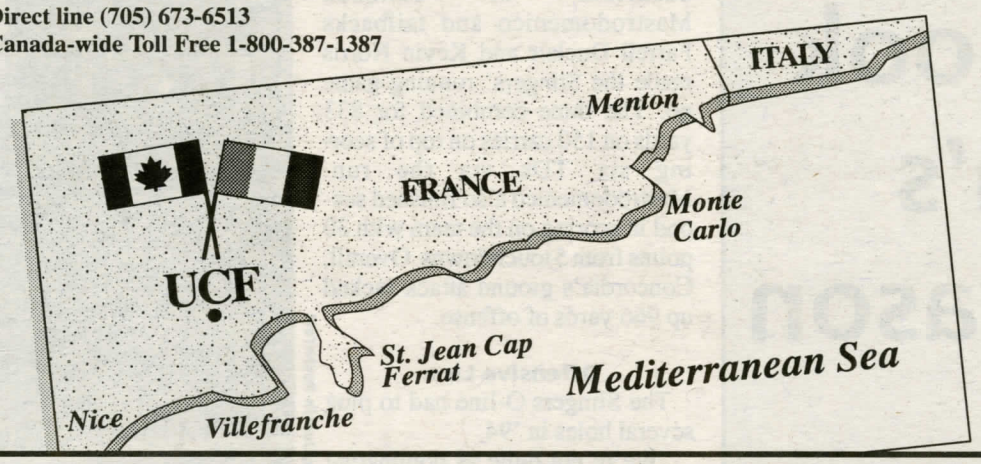

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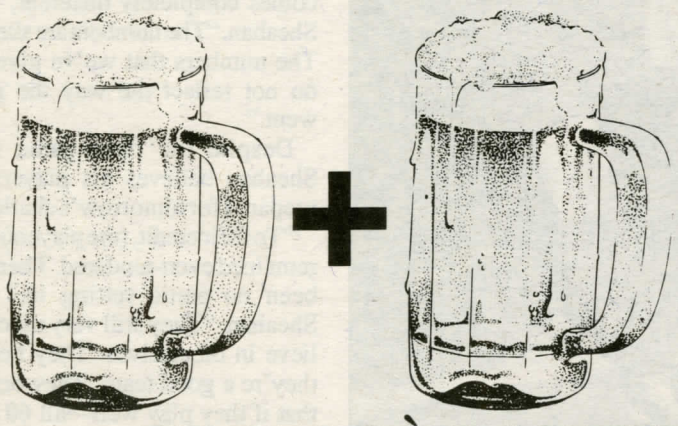

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